

28. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said plural image bearing members and said plural transferring members are arranged in a conveying direction of said conveying material, and plural color toner images are multiply transferred on a recording material one after another by a conveyance of said conveying member.

29. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein said conveying member has an endless shape.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-29 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 14-16 and 26 being independent. Claims 2, 3 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Claims 1 and 10-12 have been amended and Claims 14-29 are newly presented herein to afford Applicants a full scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. No new matter is believed to have been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-identified Office Action.

Applicant submits herewith a new and more descriptive title. Favorable consideration thereon is respectfully sought.

Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus with an image bearing member for bearing a toner image, a conveying member for bearing and conveying a recording material and a transferring member for transferring a toner image on the image bearing member to the recording material conveyed by being applied a voltage. The invention is further characterized in that the transferring member has ion conductivity.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2001-117390 (Hayashi et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention as featured in independent Claim 1 is characterized in that the transferring member for transferring a toner image on the image bearing member to the recording material conveyed by the conveying member has ion conductivity. As a result of this combination of features, even if the resistance of the recording material is changed, a good transfer can be executed without coming under the influence of the change of resistance.

Hayashi, et al. is directed to an image forming device said to prevent the discharge drop-out of a toner image transferred onto a recording material and to prolong the life of a contact transfer member. However, the belt in Hayashi, et al. is an intermediate transfer belt on which the recording material is not borne. Thus, the belt in Hayashi, et al. is not understood to correspond to the transferring member of the present

application. Accordingly, Hayashi, et al. is not understood to teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 1 and therefore is not understood to anticipate that claim.

Independent Claims 14-16 were prepared by rewriting allowable dependent Claims 2, 3, and 6, respectively, in independent form. Accordingly, each of independent Claims 14, 15, and 16 is believed allowable over the art of record for reasons that Claims 2, 3, and 6 were identified as such.

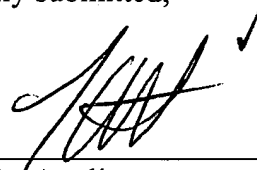
New independent Claim 26 is directed to an image forming apparatus with image bearing member, a conveying member, and a transferring member for transferring a toner image on the image bearing member to the recording material conveyed by the conveying member by being applied a voltage, and, as with Claim 1 is further characterized in that the conveying member has ion conductivity. Accordingly, for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1, the prior art of record is not understood to teach or suggest a conveying member having ion conductivity. With respect to Hayashi, et al., that reference merely suggests a contact transfer member composed of a material including ion conductivity but such does not correspond to the conveying member as recited in Claim 26.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 14-16 and 26. Dependent Claims 4, 5, 7-13, 17-25 and 27-29 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', with a checkmark to its upper right.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS ✓

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member [body] for bearing a toner image;
a conveying member for bearing and conveying a recording material; and
a transferring member for transferring a toner image on said image bearing
member [body] to the recording material conveyed by said conveying member by being
applied a voltage, wherein said transferring member has ion conductivity.

2. Cancelled herein.

3. Cancelled herein.

4. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein a surface roughness of said transferring member is at least 10 μm [or more].

6. Cancelled herein.

10. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising developing means for developing a latent image on said image bearing member [body] by a reversal developing method.

11. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a number of [said] image bearing members [body] and [the] a number of [said] transferring [member] members are plural respectively [provided plurally], corresponding to plural color toners, and said image bearing member [body] and said transferring member oppose [to] each other via said conveying member.

12. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said plural image bearing members [bodies] and said plural transferring members are arranged in a conveying direction of said conveying material, and plural color toner images are [multiply] transferred on a recording material one after another by a conveyance of said conveying member.

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Attorney Docket No.: 03500.015360

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION ✓

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to read as follows.

- -IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS WITH TRANSFERRING MEMBER
HAVING ION CONDUCTIVITY- -.